

**Minutes of the Community Development Committee  
Public Hearing  
November 1, 2010  
Lower Meeting Room, Bangs Community Center**

**Attendance:**

Mary Jane Laus (co-chair), Claude Tellier (co-chair), Jana McClure, Nancy Gregg; Nathaniel Malloy and Roy Rosenblatt, Town staff

**Public Attendance: (See attached guest list)**

Reikka Simula, Hwei-Ling Greeney, Jan Eidelson, Ellie Donaldson, Pastor Jack Desroches, Judith Roberts, Kim Hake, Sheila Murphy, Marcie Sclove, Billie Anninos, Cheryl Zoll, Linda Chalfant, Renee Moss, Tammie Butler, Jim Ayres, Marie Cyra, Sundarii Mcgrigg, Francine Mozer, Chris Larson

**Public Hearing Agenda Item:**

To notify the public of the recommended 2011 Social Service and Non-Social Service projects.

CDC co-chair Claude Tellier opened the meeting to the public at 5:40pm on November 1, 2010. Town staff member, Nathaniel Malloy, informed the public of the meeting process.

At this time, Mr. Tellier requested to hear comments from the public on the Social Service funding.

Casa Latina - No one was in attendance to present or comment on this project.

Community Action - Tammi Butler present the request for funding for an outreach worker. No other comments were made on this project.

Amherst Survival Center - Cheryl Zoll presented the food pantry project.

Center for New Americans - Jim Ayres requested funding for continuing outreach services for Amherst residents.

Big Brothers/Big Sisters - Renee Moss presented project and stated that BBBS collaborates well with other Amherst social service programs

Literacy Project - Judith Roberts requested funding for a "guidance counselor" type position.

Town of Amherst Emergency Assistance Funds - Roy Rosenblatt presented on behalf of the planning department. Mr. Rosenblatt stated that referrals for emergency assistance can be made by any of the Amherst outreach services.

Town of Amherst Childcare Tuition Assistance - Linda Chalfant stated that the proposed project expands after school programs to all 3 elementary schools. Ruth Wade supported this program.

Milestone Ministries - Pastor Jack Desroches requested funds for the emergency shelter, outreach and referral services programs for homeless individuals.

United Arc Parents Together - Chris Larson requested an unspecified amount for funding a parent support group.

At this time Mr. Tellier opened the floor to hear comments on the presented projects.

Hwei-Ling Greeney, as a private citizen, expressed support for BBBS and The Literacy Project. As a Committee on Homelessness (COH) member, Ms. Greeney expressed support for funding the Milestone Emergency Shelter program and the Town of Amherst Emergency Assistance Funds.

Reikka Simula, as a private citizen, expressed support for the Amherst Survival Center Food Pantry program. Ms. Simula also stated that she felt the Survival Center Board of Directors should include a consumer as a member. As a Committee on Homelessness member, Ms. Simula stated support for the Milestone Ministries Emergency Shelter program.

Sundarii Mcgrigg stated an overall general support for funding Amherst social services. In particular, Ms. Mcgrigg expressed support for the Literacy Project and the Milestone Ministries Emergency Shelter program.

Next, Mr. Tellier requested to hear comments from the public on the Non-Social Service projects.

Town of Amherst Planning Activity - Housing Production Plan - Mr. Malloy presented on behalf of the planning department the request for funding a consultant to complete a comprehensive housing plan.

Survival Center - Jan Eidelson requested funds to support the construction of the new center.

Town of Amherst East Street Hazard Material Mitigation & Feasibility - Mr. Malloy requested funding for this project.

Town of Amherst West Street Affordable Housing Land Purchase - Mr. Malloy requested funding for this project. Mr. Malloy stated that the town has up to 5 years to build on the property.

Town of Amherst Main Street Accessibility Improvements - Mr. Malloy requested funding for this project.

At this time Mr. Tellier opened the floor to hear comments on the presented projects.

Ms. Greeney, as a COH member, supported funding for the purchase of the West street property. As a private citizen, Ms. Greeney expressed support for the Housing Production Planning Activity but did not support the Hawthorne project.

Mr. Tellier invites further comments from the public. No other comments are stated. Mr. Tellier closes the public hearing at 7:20pm.

The CDC then reviewed and discussed the proposals to determine preliminary recommendations. The Committee assessed many aspects of the proposals:

- examining budgets to determine how much of the funding request was directly benefitting program participants and how much was used for general overhead;
- looking at any multiplier effect if funding would be leveraged with volunteers or in-kind contributions;
- the impact of not funding an organization—would the current level of services be maintained or reduced;
- the capacity of the organization to complete income verification and necessary reporting requirements

- the need of the activity and if other organizations in the community provided duplicate services
- the feasibility of the proposal—can the program/activity be completed within 18 months
- compatibility of the proposals with the Community Development Strategy and overall community goals

The CDC voted unanimously to preliminarily recommend the following activities to the Town Manager:

#### Social Services

\$20,500	Amherst Survival Center—Food Pantry
\$24,000	Center for New Americans—Education: Outreach and advocacy
\$17,000	Literacy Project—Educational assistance to adults
\$35,000	Town of Amherst—Emergency Assistance
<u>\$103,500</u>	<u>Milestone Ministries—Emergency shelter and social services for the homeless</u>
\$200,000	Total

#### Non-social Services

\$25,000	Town of Amherst—Planning activity: housing production plan and market study
\$200,000	Town of Amherst—Purchase of property on West Street for affordable housing
<u>\$375,000</u>	<u>Town of Amherst—Public infrastructure and accessibility Improvements to Main Street</u>
\$600,000	Total

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jana McClure